

REMARKS

Claims 40 and 53-68 were pending in the present application at the time of the Office Action.

Claims 40 and 53-60 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,168,271 to Hoff ("*Hoff*").

Claims 61-68 stand allowable.

The present amendment cancels claims 40 and 53-60.

For at least the reasons stated below, the Applicants respectfully traverse the above rejections and submit that all pending claims are allowable.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 40 and 53-60 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Hoff*. The Applicants respectfully traverse such rejections.

To expedite allowance of the claims identified in the Office Action as "Allowable Subject Matter", claims 40 and 53-60 have been canceled from the present application. Thus, the rejection of such claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Hoff* is now moot.

Amended Claim 61

This response includes a minor format amendment to independent claim 61. The Applicants submit that such amendment does not affect the scope of claim 61. Nonetheless, if the Examiner disagrees, the Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the Applicants' representative to discuss reversing such amendment in an expeditious manner.

Final Matters

The Office Action includes various statements regarding pending claims 40 and 53-60, *Hoff* and 35 U.S.C. § 102 that are now moot in view of the previous discussion. Accordingly, the Applicants will not address all of such statements at the present time. The Applicants neither agree nor disagree with such statements and expressly reserve the right to challenge any or all of such statements in the future should the need arise, for example if such statements should

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Resp. dated Aug. 7, 2008
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become relevant by appearing in a future rejection of any claim (*e.g.*, in the present application and/or a continuation application).

Summary

In summary, for at least the aforementioned reasons, the Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicants courteously solicit a Notice of Allowability with respect to all pending claims. If the Examiner has any further questions, the Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned to discuss such questions.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge additional fees or credit overpayments to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Date: Aug. 7, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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